

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 CU-04 SCI-06 HEW-08 EA-11 NEA-14 SAM-01

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R 050605Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 514

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: SHELEPIN VISIT TO LENINGRAD

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET POLITBURO MEMBER A. N. SHELEPIN VISITED LENINGRAD JUNE 3 IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CANDIDACY AS SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY FROM LENINGRAD ELECTORAL DISTRICT. SHELEPIN TOOK OCCASION TO DELIVER SPEECH WHICH GENERALLY PRAISED STATE OF ECONOMY, SOVIET INTERNAL STRENGTH, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. ALTHOUGH UP-BEAT IN DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL SCENE, SHELEPIN POINTED TO OPPONENTS OF DETENTE WHO STILL SEEKING CONTINUATION OF COLD WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. CPSU POLITBURO MEMBER ALEKSANDR NIKOLAYEVICH SHELEPIN ARRIVED LENINGRAD JUNE 3 FOR PROGRAM OF OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CANDIDACY AS DEPUTY OF SUPREME SOVIET COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES FROM LENINGRAD RURAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT 20. SHELEPIN WAS MET UPON ARRIVAL BY LENINGRAD PARTY FIRST SECRETARY (AND CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER) G. V. ROMANOV AND OTHER LEADING PARTY OFFICIALS. FOLLOWING VISITS TO FACTORIES

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AND ENTERPRISES, SHELEPIN DELIVERED AN ADDRESS EVENING JUNE 3

TO LARGE GATHERING OF FAITHFUL IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.

3. SHELEPIN WORKED IN INTERESTING CREDIT TO BREZHNEV IN REFERENCE TO REALIZATION OF LENINGRAD CITY AND OBLAST' UNIFIED COMPLEX PLAN OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, A CONCEPT PIONEERED HERE. NOTING THAT WORKING OUT BASIC DIRECTIONS OF PLAN HAD BEEN COMPLETED BY LENINGRADERS "FIRST IN OUR COUNTRY," SHELEPIN ADDED THAT THIS HAD BEEN WITH THE "ADVICE AND DIRECTION OF COMRADE BREZHNEV."

CONCEPT THUS MADE NOW TO LOOK LIKE BREZHNEV'S RESPONSIBILITY. SHELEPIN PAID DUE CREDIT TO HISTORICAL AND PRESENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF LENINGRADERS, MAKING REFERENCE TO ROLE AND ACTIONS OF GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV. IT IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER, THAT SHELEPIN REFERRED VERY FREQUENTLY TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND RARELY TO POLITBURO

, AND ALTOGETHER AVOIDED THE PHRASE "POLITBURO HEADED BY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV."

4. CONTRASTING U.S. AND SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS, SHELEPIN EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. HAD ARRIVED AT ITS PRESENT STATE AFTER 200 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN PEACE AND WITHOUT ONE ENEMY SHELL OR BOMB FALLING ON ITS TERRITORY. SOVIET UNION, ON OTHER HAND, HAD REALIZED ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN MANY LESS YEARS AND IN FACE OF MUCH ADVERSITY. HE POINTED TO LENINGRAD'S PLACE IN BATTLE TO OVERTHROW CAPITALISM AND BUILDING OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM AND, LOOKING BACK FURTHER, CITY'S CREATION ALMOST THREE CENTURIES AGO WAS WINDOW TO EUROPE. SHELEPIN PRAISED PRESENT ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN LENINGRAD OBLAST' AND SOVIET UNION AS WHOLE, TAKING STANDARD UP-BEAT LINE. EXULTING SIGNIFICANCE OF SUPREME SOVIET ELECTIONS, SHELEPIN MADE COMPARISON BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. PARLIAMENTARY MAKE-UP. THE 1517 SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES WERE EXTOLLED BEING TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF PEOPLE, NAMELY CONSISTING OF 763 INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED IN PRODUCTION; 146 DEPUTIES FROM AREAS OF SCIENCE, CULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH, ETC.; 463 WOMEN; AND, AS WHOLE, REPRESENTING 62 NATIONALITIES. THIS WAS CONTRASTED WITH U.S. CONGRESS WHERE 535 CONGRESSMEN WERE DESCRIBED AS CONSISTING OF 177 MEMBERS OF CAPITALIST / INDUSTRIALIST CIRCLES; 191 REPRESENTATIVES OF "SO-CALLED FREE PROFESSIONS," CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH CAPITALIST MONOPOLISTS; AND 49 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LARGE FARMER/CAPITALISTS. SHELEPIN CHARGED THAT TOTAL NUMBER INCLUDED NOT A SINGLE WORKER, ONLY 14 WOMEN, ONLY 16 NEGROES, AND NO YOUTHS. WITH REGARD TO LATTER, HE NOTED THAT AVERAGE AGE OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN IS 51, AND THAT OF SENATORS 55. (COMMENT: ONE COULD ENJOY HERE COMPARATIVE MENTION OF AVERAGE AGE OF POLITBURO MEMBERS.)

5. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SHELEPIN PRAISED TURN AWAY FROM COLD WAR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 24TH PARTY CONGRESS' POLICY OF PEACEFUL

CO-EXISTENCE, NOTING IN THIS REGARD AS POSITIVE FEATURES END OF VIETNAM WAR, REGULARIZATION OF MIDDLE EAST, AND DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPEAN SECURITY. SHELEPIN CHARACTERIZED CAPITALISM AS PRESENTLY CONFRONTED WITH SERIES OF CRISES--FINANCIAL, INFLATION, DIFFERENCES AMONG THEMSELVES, AND LIKE. HOWEVER, AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF IMPERIALISM HAS NOT CHANGED. EFFORTS OF FORCES AGAINST DETENTE CAN BE SEEN IN EVENTS IN CHILE, REPRESSION IN URUGUAY, PROVOCATIONS OF SAIGON MILITARISTS AND EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST. (COMMENT: REGARDING LATTER, SHELEPIN THUS CITED MIDDLE EAST IN BOTH PLUS AND MINUS COLUMNS.) SHELEPIN ALSO IDENTIFIED MAOIST LEADERSHIP OF CHINA AS A NEGATIVE FACTOR ACTING AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, AGAINST SOVIET UNION, AND AGAINST WORLD SOCIALISM AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

6. SHELEPIN CALLED FOR VIGILANCE, PRAISED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POTENTIAL OF SOVIET PEOPLE, AND ADDED THAT A THIRD STRENGTH WAS FOUND IN THEIR SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL. HOWEVER, HERE ALSO OPPONENTS OF DETENTE WERE TRYING "FANTASTIC IDEAS" DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE THIS SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL, VENTURING FOOLISH PREDICTIONS OF DOOM ABOUT DOWNFALL OF SOVIET SYSTEM. NEVERTHELESS, SHELEPIN NOTED UNDAUNTEDLY SOVIET PEOPLE WERE NOT AFRAID OF BATTLE ON SPIRITUAL FRONT, KNOWINGG THAT IT WILL END JUST AS WITH OTHER GREAT BATTLES OF SOVIET PEOPLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM. CONCLUDING REMARDS PRAISED SOVIET UNION'S MILITARY STRENGTH AND STATED DETERMINATION OF CPSU TO CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN COUNTRY'S DEFENSES.

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